

Fifth BA Committee Meeting Minutes – 30 October 2017

Members present:

Mark Burrell
Rory Little
Sofia Taylor (taking minutes)
Reece Oosterbeek
Isabel Vallina-Garcia
Solene Rolland
Olia Zadvorna
Olivia Tidswell
Raj Pandya
Jake Glidden
James Manton

Apologies:

Annalise Higgins
Natalie Jones

1. Freshers' Week

Mark's update: it went very smoothly, no incidents. Senior tutor wants a report from us for next year, Mark's idea is the ceilidh as our "party" event. We have an opportunity to put things through council this term.

AP: Raj and Sofia will run the survey about FW to report to the liaison committee. A pair of tickets for BA dinner as prize.

Notes and reflections from the committee:

Move the Fellows Panel into Freshers' Week proper, since it didn't feel part of it. Mark reminds everyone that keeping it during FW (as opposed to later in the term) is convenient for budgeting purposes. Raj suggests the matriculation photo day, but it's already difficult for a lot of freshers.

The main recommendations from Mark: reschedule matriculation photo (too many conflicts with departments), reschedule Fellows Panel, make more use of the BA phone, one single form for all dinners to avoid confusion (we had 15 people missing Matriculation dinner). The phone is a good idea, and cheap, but underused so there was no need for a rota.

Rory brings up the non-alcoholic events for the first 3 days, and notes that they weren't well attended. Various ideas were suggested as possibilities: dessert places, hot chocolate, ice cream, frozen yogurt. We propose making it half an hour earlier, and maybe offer an alternative only for 2 days.

Mark: coordinating events with CUSU/GU (to avoid clashes and repetitions) would be impossible because they plan mostly over the summer. The Dean wants to start planning earlier because TCSU has to plan during exams. The College proposed splitting

Matriculation Feast in two and combining with our Graduate Admissions Dinner, which we oppose. We should use the marquee more -we propose a party or the Fellows' Panel.

Rory: why is High Tea Party so late? It was getting dark. A: because UK students arrive that day.

Grad Bar Night: needs a larger tab.

International Food Night: possibly change the name. Increase the budget, have more quantity and less variety.

Wine and Cheese. The wine order must be increased (at least 10 more bottles). The leftover cheese worked well for other events. Suggestions are to reduce the blue cheese and keep the honey one.

Fellows' Panel: reduce the budget.

BBQ would probably not happen.

Mark reminds everyone to include these things in their handover document.

2. Hustings for First year rep: available dates in November are 14,19,21,27. We set on the 21st, 8pm. We must set a budget for pizza and remind candidates that they will have a set budget for their projects/ideas. We will approve the standing orders at the same time.

AP: Sofia will organize. James will check the constitution's rules.

3. Sports Day: Raj has a good feeling about this. Olivia has all sorted for Archery Tag and Krashball. We will push Johns to remind their students to sign up. Darren mentioned the ground was hard at the moment, whatever that means.

Rain provisions: should be fine unless it's torrential.

AP: Raj will procure the rugby and football, plus spoons, rope (for three legged race) and eggs.

AP: Sofia will get a box of chocolates and chocolate roses for winners.

4. Grad open day:

Reece: we need more people for ticketing. Sing up.

5. Sexual Health Testing:

Diverse, a sexual health charity, approached us to run a sexual health event at the end of November, jointly with TCSU. Will discuss more in next meeting.

Rory asks if we advertise safety alarms. We can add it to the sexual health form. CUSU offers them, and they sell them at cost. We can buy a few and advertise them as part of our sexual health supplies.

6. Bristol Trip.

AP: Olivia will send a form tomorrow, the dropout date is set for Tuesday 7th. There are 16 spaces available in the van and 20 beds available so Olivia will include it in the option to

drive. We agree £35 per person sounds reasonable and is a good compromise with our budget.

-Brief detour into ongoing BA Dinners-

All committee members should remind students that BAs are the priority of BA dinners, and that if someone wants to have a large group they can book a guest table with High Table menu or using the Private Supply Room. In exceptional circumstances Catering may provide an extra guest ticket for a BA dinner for an important guest from outside of Cambridge, not someone from a lab or from another college. 10 days' notice is required. Using someone else's University card will result in being Deaned.

Isabel proposes having more parties after dinner and it works very well after the swaps, just a bit of dancing in the bar. We will try to get the bar open after the Feast.

AP: Sofia will add spots to the rota for ushering since "They will learn and there will be no need to remind people not to leave empty spaces" isn't working.

7. Accommodation committee:

Mark reports that it was tense. There were representatives from accommodation, housecleaning, works, tutorial, TCSU, BASOC and fellows.

Guest policy: two nights per person, you can also get 3 nights in College. The exception is for medical reasons only and there won't be flexibility.

(The committee has a brief dessert break)

3 general goals of the BA Society for this committee:

- (1) Produce and disseminate information about how accommodation office works, and why it does things the way it does
- (2) Provide more info about graduate accommodation, burden is on us to do this
- (3) Engage in annual processes, most notably rent setting and ballot planning, as well as representing student complaints to the committee.

AP: James and Reece will collect more information on each type of accommodation, pros and cons, amenities.

AP: Responsibility chart: information on how the issues should be brought up. James will write.

AP: Welfare team (in the next meeting), discuss having a chart on "who to contact".

There will be another accommodation committee meeting soon to discuss Christmas vacation (undergraduates), rent (the goal is to have the rent prices through council before the ballot, and the undergraduate ballot will be brought earlier).

Final thoughts: larger beds are not going to happen, we should forward all issues regarding accommodation to Mark.

8. Christmas planning: we don't have events after the 9th.

Some suggestions for Christmas break: movie nights, waffle brunch in early January, pub night. Planning something for Christmas Day is almost impossible.

9. Preliminary Lent events, all are action points:

Phantom of the Opera and Tosca at the ROH

Hiring an art teacher for a class (Olia)

Cheese and cider (Rory)

Early lent behind the scenes zoology tour (Olivia)

Coffee tasting for £7 a head in Hot Numbers (Reece)

The Oxford trip is usually around Easter holidays. Try to contact Magdalene or Lincoln College. 20ish people, aim for an overnight trip. We will plan some Easter events to welcome them. (Olivia)

Another Wren Library tour about literature (Rory)

Knife throwing. Apparently not kidding. (Raj)

Mindfulness class (Olivia)

Tea tasting. Whittard could do one but they haven't run these events before. Solene has contacted another place which could do it.

Mark suggests that the welfare team runs a workshop.

10. Easter term

Another Wren library tour, KESSLER collection.

Wicken Fen camping is ongoing.

Puppy day is in development (Annalise)